

# Superior National Forest

## Fall Color Report September 22, 2010

*"Everyone must take time to sit and watch the leaves turn."*

- Elizabeth Lawrence

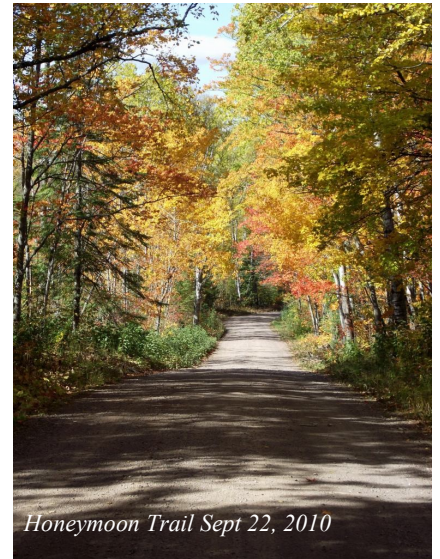


*Incoming weather*

### **If you're going to sit and watch the leaves turn, this might be the time to do it.**

There are all sorts of signs coming together. Wednesday, September 22, was the official start to fall. The sun crossed the celestial equator at 10:22 and brought us into autumn. It also was a full moon, the harvest moon, bringing a night so bright that you

could read outside at midnight. Migrating and soon to be migrating birds seem to be everywhere, foraging hard, stocking up for flight. Color reports from around the Superior National Forest are at 80% or higher of the maples turned, with many of the aspen and birch right behind.



*Honeymoon Trail Sept 22, 2010*



*Confusing fall warbler*

If that all seems a little clinical, with precise figures and dates and times, don't worry. Nature isn't quite that cut and dried. There are still patches of green here and there where it might still be August. And to add some



*Aspen for future falls: 2007 Ham Lake fire area*

additional unpredictability, there is also another sign of autumn on the horizon, a storm coming in from the west. It is due to hit on Thursday with high winds, slashing rain, and even a chance of flooding. What that will do to the



*Lakeside birch*

leaves is anyone's guess at this point. Many may find themselves on the forest floor after only a brief moment of glory on a sunny day. Others may be able to cling to the twig for just long enough for the storm to pass, and will fall gently to the earth sometime in October. Whatever happens, the next few weeks will probably be some of the best 'leaf peeping' of the year. It's time to put cleaning the garage on hold and go for a hike, or a sit, in the woods and watch the leaves turn.

